

# Viewpoint

## Letters

Dear Editor:

I read the *CRM* Thematic Issue (Volume 17, No. 3), "NPS, its Partners, and International Historic Preservation," with interest and found the articles to be very informative. However, I noted with disappointment that there was no inclusion of any reference to the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCRUM) in Rome. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation serves as the United States Government agency responsible for coordinating international study through the Centre and has held this responsibility as part of its duties under the National Historic Preservation Act since 1970. ICCROM offers a wide range of training courses which have been attended by a number of American students, including NPS staff. There are a number of American universities, museums, and cultural organizations which are also associate members of ICCROM. In addition to the Council's representation in the General Assembly of ICCROM's 90 members, the United States is represented on the Executive Council of the organization by the director of the Conservation Center of the Smithsonian Institution.

*CRM* readers may obtain the Council's Fact Sheet about ICCROM by writing to: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Old Post Office Building, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809, Washington, DC 20004.

Robert D. Bush,  
Executive Director  
Advisory Council on Historic  
Preservation

### Cataloging Archival Materials

Dear Editor:

J. Steven Moore's article "Cataloging Archival Materials: The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials" (*CRM* Vol. 17, No. 4) provides a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials and the National Park Service Inventory and Condition Assessment Program (ICAP).

NPS manages archival collections such as those cited in Moore's article under the museum collections program. Item-level cataloging of archival and manuscript materials as the article describes is not an approach generally recommended by National Park Service archival guidance (as expressed in the *Museum Handbook*, Part II, Appendix D). Archival descriptive

practices are "top-down" rather than "bottom-up"—providing an overview of all archival collections found in a park before providing more detailed description of any one collection or item.

The Chief Librarian recommends the use of Pro-Cite for cataloging library publications. It may, on occasion, also be used by library staff to provide cross-references to research materials held outside the library, such as archival materials in museum collections. For an overview of archival descriptive strategies see the article on page 33 of this issue of *CRM*.

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## Tribal News

### Keepers of the Treasures National Tribal Cultural Organization Holds Third Annual Meeting

Patricia L. Parker

"Keepers of the Treasures—Cultural Council of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians" held their third annual membership meeting and workshop May 1-4, 1994, at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in northern Oregon. More than 200 tribal representatives attended from approximately 60 tribes, Alaska Native groups, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

A two-day workshop, "Repatriation: The Implications and Implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act" preceded the business meeting. Attorney Walter Echo Hawk from the Native American Rights Fund, pointed out that "the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act is human rights legislation designed to restore property, provide equal protection under the law, and

ensure freedom of religion." Earlier that morning, Mr. Louie Pitt, government affairs officer for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, made the same point, "NAGPRA is new," he said, "but the people (whose graves were disturbed) were always ours."

The repatriation theme was punctuated by presentations from the Warm Springs community on their multi-faceted programs to strengthen and protect their cultural traditions. Traditional dances were presented by children from the Head Start program and other tribal members during "Indian Night Out." Warm Springs elders honored the participants by attending each of the meeting sessions.

One of the most moving sessions came on the last evening when several tribal elders shared some very personal and poignant experiences as tribal undertakers—those who prepare the dead for their journey. For them, caring for those who die today is clearly linked to caring for those who died a century ago and now again need the help of elders to return to the earth. Lawrence Hart of the Cheyenne Cultural Center in Oklahoma presented a very beautiful and emotional videotape documenting the repatriation of Cheyenne ancestors, including some of the victims of the Sand Creek Massacre from the



Tribal representatives listen to presentations during the Keepers of the Treasures meeting held at the Warm Springs Reservation. Photo by Chris Milda.

Smithsonian Institution and the Peabody Museum.

Presentations were made by Tessie Naranjo and Martin Sullivan, members of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Review Committee, and by Tim McKeown, National Park Service, Archeological Assistance Division NAGPRA program leader. The Smithsonian Institution was represented by Thomas Killion, Director of the Office of Repatriation at the Museum of Natural History and Clara Sue Kidwell, Assistant Director for Cultural Resources, National Museum of the American Indian.

Delbert Frank, Chairman of the Warm Springs Cultural Heritage Commission, praised the Keepers of the Treasures organization, saying that while he attends many meetings for Indian people, he especially appreciated hosting this one as the Keepers "are taking the most meaningful stand on cultural leadership."



Traditional undertakers from the Warm Springs Reservation in northcentral Oregon share their experiences with tribal representatives from across the nation at the conference on repatriation sponsored by the Keepers of the Treasures—Cultural Council of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. Photo by Chris Milda.